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E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: [AMGT](#) [ASEC](#) [OTRA](#) [PARM](#) [PREL](#) [GM](#)
SUBJECT: BERLIN: COUNTRY CLEARANCE GRANTED TO
NONPROLIFERATION DIRECTORS' GROUP

REF: STATE 61706

¶1. (SBU) Embassy welcomes and grants country clearance to Deputy Assistant Secretary Andrew K. Semmel, ISN/DOS Alexander T. Liebowitz, and Senior Policy Advisor Gerald Stacy to participate in the G-8 NPDPG meeting from May 12-15, ¶2007.

¶2. (SBU) Point of contact for this visit will be Global Affairs Officer Richard Crandell, who can be reached at office telephone 49(30)8305-2309, fax 49-30-8305-2339, home phone 49(30)2300-4475, mobile phone 49 (0) 173-945-4720 and email CrandellRD@state.gov. Per reftel, Post will assist with transportation to and from the meeting location.

¶3. (U) Post and German authorities continuously review information that could impact on the safety and security of your visit to Germany. At this time, we are not aware of any specific, credible threats to your traveling party.

¶4. (U) The Department of State assesses German cities with a U.S. diplomatic presence as high for transnational terrorism and medium for criminal activity. On 20 April 2007, The U.S. Embassy released a public announcement stating that security at U.S. diplomatic and consular facilities throughout Germany had increased their security posture in response to a heightened security environment. This heightened threat of a terrorist attack continues and visitors are encouraged to consult with the Regional Security Office or Control Officer prior to travel. The full text of this public announcement is available on the internet at www.usembassy.de.

¶5. (U) While there have been no recent significant domestic terrorist attacks in Germany, the country remains a potential venue for transnational terrorism. German troops are currently deployed in Afghanistan and are assisting with the NATO training mission in Iraq. In addition, the country continues to host a sizeable number of U.S. military installations, almost all of which are involved in our current military efforts in Iraq. A March 2007 video, apparently produced by Islamic extremists, specifically threatened Germany with terrorist attacks as a result of the country's military deployment in Afghanistan. In June 2006, two improvised explosive devices were placed aboard regional commuter trains in Western Germany; the devices failed to function and the perpetrators were apprehended. Nonetheless, the incident is a reminder that Germany is not immune from the threat of terrorism.

¶6. (U) The most common threat to official USG travelers in Germany is petty crime. Pick-pocketing, bag-snatching, and confidence schemes are often perpetrated against obvious tourists and foreigners in large German cities. Hotel room break-ins and thefts from automobiles, while infrequent, have occurred in the past. Armed robbery, home invasion, and

car-jacking are all but non-existent in Germany. Taxis, as well as Germany's extensive public transportation network, are safe and may be used by USG personnel.

¶17. (U) Large-scale protests are a common feature of daily life in major German cities. Only rarely are such protests held without police sanction, and German authorities are skilled in crowd control techniques. The overwhelming majority of protests occur without violence, although marches and demonstrations by right-wing and Neo-Nazi extremists have recently drawn violent counter-protests from the left-wing community.

¶18. (U) Visitors to Germany should practice the same good common-sense personal security practices that are an every day part of life in U.S. cities. A heightened sense of situational awareness should be exercised when in popular tourist areas, train stations, and other soft-target venues. Large gatherings and demonstrations, regardless of the theme or topic, should be avoided. USG visitors are encouraged to report unusual, suspicious, threatening, or harassing behavior to the nearest Mission Germany Regional Security Office at the numbers listed below.

¶19. (U) German law enforcement agencies are professional and extremely supportive to the U.S. government and all of our concerns. The countrywide police emergency telephone number is 110. The fire department and ambulance service may be reached at telephone 112. The U.S. Embassy in Berlin reports current threat information for American citizens at 030-832-9233.

¶10. (U) Further questions regarding this assessment may be directed to the Regional Security Office in Berlin at 49-30-8305-1400, in Frankfurt at 49-69-7535-2444, or in

Munich at 49-89-2888-625.
TIMKEN JR